

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A microactuator, comprising:

a first plate;

a second plate supported in a spaced relation to said first plate and having a first end, said second plate capable of actuation with respect to said first plate, said first plate capable of exerting an electrostatic force on said second plate upon application of a voltage potential between said first and second plates;

a third plate having a first end pivotally coupled to said first end of said second plate, said third plate capable of actuation with respect to said first plate, actuation of said second plate at least assisting in actuation of said third plate; and

at least one foot provided at said first end of said second plate and at said first end of said third plate for preventing the first ends of the second and third plates from contacting said first plate upon application of a voltage potential between said first and second plates.

2. (Previously Presented) A microactuator as recited in claim 1, wherein said third plate includes a mirror.

3. (Previously Presented) A microactuator as recited in claim 1, wherein said second plate is between two and ten times longer than said third plate.

4. (Previously Presented) A microactuator as recited in claim 1, wherein said second plate is between five and seven times longer than said third plate.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A microactuator, comprising:

a substrate;

a first plate fixed with respect to said substrate;

a second plate anchored to said substrate and supported in a spaced relation to said first plate and capable of actuation with respect to said first plate, said first plate capable of exerting an electrostatic force on said second plate upon application of a voltage potential between said first and second plates;

a spring mechanism;

a third plate, pivotally coupled to said second plate via said spring mechanism and capable of actuation with respect to said substrate, actuation of said second plate at least assisting in actuation of said third plate.

7. – 14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A microactuator, comprising:

a base layer including a first stationary electrode and a second stationary electrode;

a first plate, including:

a first end pivotally mounted in a spaced relation from said base layer,

a second free end positioned adjacent said first stationary electrode and spaced from said first stationary electrode in an unbiased condition, and

a central portion between said first and second end;

a second plate, including:

a first end pivotally mounted to said first plate at said central portion, and

a second free end positioned adjacent said second stationary electrode and spaced from said second stationary electrode in an unbiased condition;

a first voltage source for applying a first voltage to said first plate to generate a first electrostatic force between said first plate and said first electrode, said first electrostatic force capable of pivoting said first plate with respect to said base layer; and

a second voltage source for applying a second voltage to said second plate to generate a second electrostatic force between said second plate and said second electrode, said second electrostatic force capable of pivoting said second plate with respect to said first plate.

16. (Previously Presented) A microactuator as recited in claim 15, wherein said first and second voltages are equal to each other.

17. (Previously Presented) A microactuator as recited in claim 15, wherein said first and second voltages are not equal to each other.

18. (Previously Presented) A microactuator as recited in claim 15, wherein said first voltage is applied at a same time as said second voltage.

19. (Previously Presented) A microactuator as recited in claim 15, wherein said first voltage is applied prior to said second voltage.
20. (Previously Presented) A microactuator as recited in claim 15, wherein pivoting of said first plate brings said second plate nearer to said second electrode to increase said second electrostatic force between said second plate and said second electrode.
21. (Previously Presented) A microactuator as recited in claim 6, wherein said third plate includes a mirror.
22. (Previously Presented) A microactuator as recited in claim 6, wherein said second plate is between two and ten times longer than said third plate.
23. (Previously Presented) A microactuator as recited in claim 6, wherein said second plate is between five and seven times longer than said third plate.